## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

April 10, 2000 LB 1213

may not be satisfactory to...undoubtedly won't be satisfactory to all, may not be satisfactory to a majority. But I thought by throwing the motion in we at least have the opportunity to consider the alternative that the \$2.865 million would then be available to be considered as a part of the appropriating process as we deal with whatever it is we deal with tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 and on Wednesday. And that's the purpose of the amendment, and I would urge discussion on the amendment and see if maybe this is a moment in time we want to take advantage of. Maybe it isn't. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Robak, on the motion to return. Senator Robak waives. Senator Brown, followed by Senators Chambers, Brashear, Cudaback and Robak.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I believe that this amendment, as the previous Wehrbein amendment, is somewhat of an indictment of our appropriations process. And I worry that we have a tendency to try to find every penny we can so that we can spend it and spend it in a way that I'm not even sure that Senator Beutler ever got a clear answer to his question about whether we fully knew what the projected cost of what we were talking about was. And we will then own in the coming years the impact of having maybe spent this \$2.8 million on something that's ongoing and we're going to have to continue to come up with money to fund it. I don't think it's a particularly good way to do business. And it is very hard for me sometimes to turn down spending on things that I feel strongly about. And there are some things out there right now that I feel strongly about that I would like to be able to spend But when we've gone through an appropriations process, when we pitted everything that is ongoing about keeping our agencies going in the way that they need to be and having to make hard choices and then we come out to the floor and hopefully we make hard choices out here. Everything is about priorities and I don't think it's particularly good to just have more money in the mix and not have a fair kind of choice, priority choice, especially when that money is coming at the very end and the choices that we've made along the way were made not knowing that we had that money in place. And so I'm very concerned about us moving forward with the Brashear amendment.